

ARCHER PRODUCTIONS, INCORPORATED

"CIVIL DEFENSE FOR SCHOOLS"

( Duck and Cover )

For primary grades, and supplemental  
use in secondary.

by Ray J. Mauer

Official Film: Federal Civil Defense  
Administration.

Written under supervision of  
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
of the United States.

## PICTURE

## SOUND

First thing we see is not the titles, but an animated cartoon of Bert, the Turtle, who walks along in an upright position. Following him, and also on two feet, is a skunk (who shall be nameless). The skunk is suspending a lighted firecracker over Bert's head by means of a fishpole. The firecracker is close enough to frighten the turtle, but not hurt him.

Closeup of the turtle, who doesn't hear the warning, keeps right on walking

Suddenly, the firecracker goes off, emitting a brilliant flash over the whole scene

Turtle flops down on his belly

Turtle pulls in head, feet and tail.

In one quick motion, they all disappear into his shell.

MUSIC: Suitable to the mood, in rhythm with the steps of the animals.

NARRATOR(always offstage): Hey... Mister Turtle... Look out!

NAR: Look out!

NAR: DUCK...

AND

COVER!

SOUND: Whistle, emphasizing the quick withdrawal of the members into the shell.

NAR: This is Bert, the Turtle, friends.

Superimpose first title over Bert:

"DUCK AN COVER"

SUPERIMP SECOND TITLE: "OFFICIAL  
FILM: FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINIS-  
TRATION"

SUPERIMP THIRD TITLE, : "PRODUCED  
BY ARCHER PRODUCTIONS, INC."

Next we see a Closeup front view  
of Bert, still all pulled into  
his shell.

Through the dark aperture in the front  
of Bert's shell, two eyes appear,  
shining through the darkness inside.  
Eyes move left to right and back  
several times. He is shaking his  
head in a vehement "no".

The eyes shake "no" again, this  
time so violently the whole animal  
rocks.

He's doing something each and every one  
of us must learn to do...

DUCK AND COVER...

That's what this film is all about.

An official Civil Defense Film,

Produced by Archer Productions.

Hey, Bert...come on out and meet all  
these nice people!

NAR: Please?

Oh, all right. We really can't blame you.  
(to audience) You see, friends, Bert is  
a very, very careful fellow. When there's  
danger, this is the way he keeps from  
being hurt. Sometimes, it even saves hi-

Dissolve to Live action photography.  
A fourth grade classroom scene, with  
old-style desks. Pupils ~~are~~ listening  
intently to teacher, who is about to  
have a "Duck and Cover" drill.

Closeup of the teacher. She gives a  
signal for the class to drop.

The class covers faces and necks, drops  
under desks. Hold on covered-up  
children.

DISS to stock footage of a building  
on fire, with no gruesome damage  
in evidence.

CU of man ringing a fire alarm box.

Stock footage of firemen in action.

Policeman, stopping traffic at a  
crosswalk so children can cross

life.

Duck and cover will keep us from  
being badly hurt, too, if an atom bomb  
ever explodes ~~nearby~~ nearby.

That's why these children~~xx~~ are practicing  
to duck and cover, just like you do  
in your class

They all know the atom bomb is very  
dangerous. We must get ready for it,  
just as we have gotten ready for many  
other dangers that are around us all the  
time.

Fire is a danger. If someone is careless  
it can burn whole buildings.

But we are ready for fires. We have  
alarm boxes to call for help,

and a fine fire department to put out  
the fire and keep everybody safe.

Automobiles can be dangerous, too.  
they sometimes cause bad accidents. But

Children cross

we are ready. We have safety rules that car drivers and people who are walking must obey, so no one will be hurt.

Children finish crossing, and the officer starts the traffic again.

Everywhere we go, there are dangers of some kind, and we must be ready for them, to keep from being hurt. Now we must be ready for the great new danger of the Atom Bomb.

FADE TO BLACK

Fade in on a somewhat rural landscape, without people or animals.

First, you have to know what an atom bomb looks like, when it explodes. It looks like this:

A brilliant flash covers the landscape, all but fading it out. ~~Instantly~~ ~~returning to~~ After the flash, throw the scene out of focus.

It is a big, bright flash, a great roaring explosion a hundred times brighter than anything else you have ever seen.

DISS to animation, very simplified, which shows an urban section.

If you were not ready, and did not know what to do, it could hurt you in different ways

We see the flash coming from one side of the screen. The blast snaps off trees, throws barrels, crates and miscellaneous articles through the air. Several buildings get their facades

It could knock you down hard, or throw you against a tree or a wall. It is such a big explosion it can smash in ~~business~~ buildings, knock signboards over, and break windows all over town.

~~beatenxinix~~

beaten in, windows smashed. But  
no really grim destruction.

CUT TO BERT, lying prone and pulled  
in. Debris sails harmlessly over his  
head.

DISS TO love action photography. A  
mother is applying lotion to a  
small child's sunburned back.

DISS back to Bert. the bomb's heat  
rays stop short of his shell, but  
parch everything else.

CUT BACK TO THE animated urban scene.  
"Radioactive clouds" are billowing  
from the direction of the flash

CUT BACK TO C U of Bert, all covered  
up. "dust particles" bounce off his  
shell.

DISS TO first grade classroom, with  
chairs and tables instead of desks.  
Teacher is talking to the children  
about duck and cover. She is using  
one boy as a model.

But if you duck and cover, like Bert,  
you won't be knocked around, or  
hit by sticks or stones.

flash  
The atom bomb could burn you~~xjustx~~  
~~ixex-xtss-ixexenaburay-onlyx~~ worse  
than a terrible sunburn, especially ~~was~~  
the places where  
your clothes do not cover you. But if  
you cover your~~sixfx~~ bare skin, you can  
keep from getting burned.

The atom bomb blows tiny pieces of dust  
through the air that is sometimes poison-  
ous if it falls onto bare skin.

But if you duck and cover the right  
way, you can keep the poison dust off  
of your skin.

Now you and I don't have have shells to  
crawl into, like Bert the Turtle. So  
we have to cover up in our own way.

The boy falls flat, the teacher helping.

The teacher emphasizes, in pantomime, the need to cover face and neck tightly.

Camera dollies back, showing that the child has dropped under a table. The teacher indicates the table to the class, which is offscreen.

DISS TO one-room schoolhouse, showing pupils in their places, in an attitude of attention. Betty raises her hand, stands up to ask a question.

Fast pan, or cut to teacher answering.

DISS to military personnel, manning an anti-aircraft post, and watching for planes.

DISS TO Civil Defense workers, at listening post.

First, you fall down flat...

very tightly  
And ~~then~~ you cover the back of your neck and your face, and wherever else your skin is uncovered

If there is a table or bed nearby, you duck and cover underneath it.

talking  
In Betty's school they are ~~getting-x~~  
~~re-x~~ about getting ready for the atom bomb, too. Betty is asking her teacher, "How can we tell when the atom bomb is going to explode?"

And her teacher is explaining that there are two kinds of attack: with warning, and without any warning. We think that most of the time we will be warned before the bomb explodes, so there will be time for us to get into our homes, schools or some other safe place.

Our civil Defense workers, our soldiers and sailors will do everything they can to warn us before enemy planes can bring a bomb near us.

CLOSEUP of soldier, talking over a field phone.

BLUR PAN to a school playground. Children of various ages playing.

They hear the signal, and start toward the school building.

CUT TO school entrance(ext) , with children entering in a businesslike manner.

DISS TO two girls, seven and nine, playing on the lawn of their home.

They hear the signal. Their high-school-age brother comes hurrying home, hustles them into the house.

CUT TO A GIRL OF 12 , on a downtown street. She turns as she apparently hears the signal. Looking about, she sees someone offstage, runs off in that direction.

CUT TO a policeman, directing the girl to a doorway.

Cut to a sign in the doorway, "SHELTER!" MS several people following the girl into the shelter entrance.

When the signal comes, we must get to the nearest safe place right away. You might be playing in the school playground . When you hear the warning go straight into school, and do ~~just~~ the things ~~you have~~ ~~rehears~~ practiced in the air raid drills.

Always remember the atom bomb can explode any time of the day or night, no matter what you are doing.

<sup>out</sup>  
You might be playing at home, when the warning comes. Then be sure to get into the house right away, where your parents have fixed a safe place for you to go.

If you are not close to home when you hear the warning, go to the closest friend's or neighbor's house.

If you are not sure where to go, ask a grown-up to help you. But somehow, get into a safe place before the bomb explodes..

FADE TO BLACK

Fade in on a residential scene (live action) different from any previous ly shown.

The scene flashes

FAST DISS TO BERT . The scene flashes, and he repeats his routing.

DISS TO school corridor, where two seventh or eighth grade boys are showing smaller children how to fall against an inside building wall.

One of  
The boys drops against the wall, covers up .

CU of the boy's face and neck, as protected by his arms.

CUT TO second monitor, who points to a nearby door with a glass pane, shakes

Yes, if everything goes all right, we will hear a warning before the bomb ~~exp~~ explodes.

But sometimes...and this is very, very important...sometimes the bomb might explode without any warning.

Then the first thing we would know about it would be the flash. ~~xxxxxx~~  
And that means DUCK AND COVER wherever you are. No time to look around or wait...

When you see the flash, DUCK AND COVER!

Here are some monitors showing what to <sup>comes</sup> do if the flash ~~happens~~ when you are walking along in the school corridor.

You duck and cover tight against the wall this way.

Remember to keep your face ~~xxxxxx~~ covered tightly, and the back of your neck.

Try to fall away from doors with glass in them, or windows. Then if the glass



buildings.

As they pass a building front, the bomb flashes. Immediately the two children drop to the sidewalk, against the side of the building (there are no windows near)

MS Paul and Patty, lying still

CUT TO CU of Paul: he has covered the back of his neck with a geography book.

FULL SHOT of Patty. She has thrown <sup>bare</sup> her coat over her legs.

MS of Paul and Patty, still prone.

Camera pans along the building to a recessed doorway in the same building.

CUT inside doorway. A high school girl stands against the inner part of the door, face and neck protected with her arms. She has no hat.

~~holding~~

do if the atom bomb exploded right then.

DUCK AND COVER! It is a bomb!

Paul and Patty won't be hurt; ~~it's~~ ~~good~~ they know how to take care of themselves.

even

Paul covered the back of his head with his geography book, ~~so it wouldn't be~~ ~~his geography book~~ ~~burned.~~ ~~so it wouldn't be~~ ~~his geography book~~ ~~burned.~~

and Patty ~~xxx~~ covered her bare legs with the coat she was carrying.

They will be all right, because they knew how to duck and cover, and they acted right away ~~when they saw the flash~~ ~~xxx~~ ~~they~~ ~~xxx~~

If they had been near this doorway when ~~they~~ the bomb flashed, Paul and Patty would have ducked and covered this way, like this girl who was passing by. Heavy doorways are a good place to duck and cover. This girl will

be safe, too. But she should wear a hat. It might keep her ~~from~~ from being from getting burned.

DISS TO 5th grade boy riding his bike along a residential street at a leisurely pace. It is winter, with no snow on the ground, but the boy wears a sheepskin coat, hat with ear flaps and mittens.

The bomb flashes. Tony jumps off the bike, steers it away from himself, then dives into the gutter and covers up.

CU of Tony, in the gutter.

DISS to volunteer CD worker telling Tony it is all right to get up. He

Here's Tony, going to his cub scout meeting. It must be very cold weather, with all those clothes he's wearing. But Tony knows the atom bomb can be exploded any time of the year, daytime or night time. He is ready for it.

DUCK AND COVER!

Atta boy, Tony. That flash means act fast!

Tony knows that ~~if~~ even a curb can help you to to cover yourself up. ~~if there is~~ ~~any other place~~ ~~near~~ ~~you~~ ~~if~~ ~~that even if there were~~ ~~near~~ ~~by~~ And notice how he keeps from moving, or from getting up and running home. If he <sup>get up,</sup> did, and then another bomb exploded, he might be hurt by that one. So he just waits, even though it is very cold and uncomfortable.

He knows that when it is safe to get up, a grown-up will come and help him. It

pats Tony on the shoulder for doing the right thing. Tony smiles at him, walks off toward home.

might have been a long time before someone did come, but ~~any~~ it is best to wait and be safe,

DISS TO School bus interior, as it moves along.

We must know how to duck and cover in the school bus, or in any other bus, street car or automobile. ~~But-when-ever,~~

The bomb flashed

DUCK AND COVER.

Passengers duck down in their seats, covering exposed parts .

Nobody waits, or looks up at the flash. That would hurt your eyes, and you might not be able to see for a while. And everybody make sure to get away from the windows.

DISS TO Family on picnic. Mother and two children, of primary grade age, are sitting on the ground, around the picnic spread. Father, in the background, is stoking a charcoal picnic stove.

Sundays, holidays, vacation time... we must be ready every day, all the time to do the right thing if the atom bomb explodes.

The bomb flash occurs.

Duck and Cover!

Cut to mother and the two children, diving under the tablecloth.

This family knows that even a thin cloth, especially a white one, helps save you from getting burned.

CUT TO Father, fallen on his face.  
A newspaper, originally intended for  
kindling, covers his head.

DISS TO A BOY ABOUT 14, driving a  
tractor which pulls a hay rake. A  
10-year old boy rides the rake.

The flash occurs.

CUT TO the boy on the tractor. He  
switches off the ignition, then  
dives to the ground and covers  
up.

CUT TO the boy on the rake. He jumps  
off, rolls under a small pile of green  
hay.  
DISS TO previous scene, where the CD  
worker notifies Tony it is safe  
to go home.

DISS TO Tony, approaching his home.  
He takes off his hat and outer garments,  
drops them on the front lawn, goes in-  
side.

Tony, taking a shower

But the most important thing of all  
is to fall down flat<sup>yourself</sup> and cover up,  
~~youxxxxsax~~ especially where your  
clothes do not cover you.

No matter where we live, in the city  
or the country, we must be ready all  
the time for the atom bomb.

DUCK AND COVER!

That's the first thing to do...duck and  
cover. The next important thing to do,  
after that, is to stay covered up until  
THE DANGER IS OVER. WHEN IT IS, A GRWON-  
~~XAXXGROWN-UP\*COMES\*ALONG\*TO\*HELP\*YOU\*X~~ ~~MIN~~  
up will come along to help you, like  
the man helped Tony.

But before he goes into his house,  
Tony takes off all his outside clothes,  
just in case any ~~poison~~ dust from the bo  
bomb has stuck to them. This dust is so  
fine you cannot even see it.

That's why when he gets inside, Tony  
washes off any that might still be on

on him. ~~Otherwise, he might~~ If he didn't get it all off, he might get what we call radiation sickness.

DISS BACK to first-grade classroom, pupils listening intently to teacher. Then cut to series of ~~the~~ other classroom shots.

Yes, we must all get ready now, so we know how to save ourselves if the atom bomb ever explodes nearby. If you do not know just what to do, ask your teacher when the film is over. Our parents and teachers will help us as they always do. But there might not be any grown-ups around when the bomb ~~explodes~~ explodes. Then, you're on your own...

ANIMATION: FAST DISS TO BERT. He talks to audience.

BERT: Remember what to do, friends. Now tell me, right out loud. What're you supposed to do when you see the flash?

The flash occurs. Bert flops onto his belly.

NAR: DUCK

BERT PULLS HIMSELF IN

AND COVER!

DOLLY IN ON BERT. As we approach him, he flops over on his back (using one foot, which he hastily withdraws when the maneuver is completed). This exposes the Civil Defense seal, on the stomach of Bert's shell. Zoom seal to fill screen.